13. (Amended) A method for an interrogator reading one or more RFID transponders in a field comprising the steps of:

a. providing a carrier signal;

b. detecting the presence of at least one transponder;

c. receiving data from all active transponders in the field;

d. determining whether the interrogator has received a valid data transmission; and

e. upon determining an invalid data transmission, informing [modifying the carrier signal to inform] all active transponders in the field that there was an incomplete read, the informing including suppressing the carrier.

14. (Amended) The method recited in claim 13, wherein steps (c) and (d) are iteratively repeated until the interrogator determines that it [is] has read the complete data for each transponder in the field.

18. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of determining whether the interrogator has received an [a] invalid data transmission comprises detecting the interrogator's inability to compute a proper synchronization word, a proper CRC, or a [an] proper word length.

19. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of informing active transponders in the field that there was an incomplete read [modifying the carrier signal in a predetermined manner] comprises suppressing the carrier signal for a predetermined number of clock cycles.

20. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the step of informing active transponders in the field that there was an incomplete read [modifying the carrier signal] is performed prior to the transponder sending its complete data transmission.

21. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the step of informing active transponders in the field that there was an incomplete read [modifying the carrier signal] is performed substantially simultaneously upon the determination that invalid data transmission has been received.

Please add new claims as follows.

13--25. A method for an interrogator reading one or more RFID transponders in a field, the interrogator including a demodulator, the method comprising:

providing a carrier signal;

detecting the presence of at least one transponder, the detecting including receiving data from the demodulator and modifying the carrier signal by suppressing the carrier signal for a predetermined number of clock cycles;

receiving data from all active transponders in the field, the receiving including receiving the data in groups of one or more bits and checking the validity of each group of data as the group is received;

determining whether the interrogator has received a valid data transmission by detecting the interrogator's inability to compute a proper synchronization word, a proper CRC, or a proper word length;

upon determining an invalid data transmission, modifying the carrier signal to inform all active transponders in the field that there was an incomplete read; and

transmitting the complete data for each transponder from the interrogator to a computer system for processing.

14 26. The method as recited in claim 13 25, wherein the step of modifying the carrier signal is performed prior to the transponder sending its complete data transmission.

15 ~~27~~. The method as recited in claim 13 ~~25~~ wherein the step of modifying the carrier signal is performed substantially simultaneously upon the determination that invalid data transmission has been received.

16 ~~28~~. The method as recited in claim 13 ~~25~~ wherein the receiving and the determining whether the interrogator has received a valid data transmission are iteratively repeated until the interrogator determines that the interrogator has read the complete data for each transponder in the field.

17 ~~29~~. The method as recited in claim 16 ~~28~~, wherein determining that the interrogator has read the complete data for one of the transponders in the field comprises determining that a CRC is valid and modifying the carrier signal in a predetermined manner.

18 30. A method for an interrogator reading one or more RFID transponders in a field, the interrogator including a demodulator, the method comprising:

providing a carrier signal;

detecting the presence of at least one transponder, the detecting including receiving data from the demodulator and modifying the carrier signal in a predetermined manner;

receiving data from all active transponders in the field, the receiving including receiving the data in groups of one or more bits and checking the validity of each group of data as it is received;

#3 Cont

determining whether the interrogator has received a valid data transmission; the receiving and the determining being iteratively repeated until the interrogator determines that the interrogator has read complete data for each transponder in the field, the determining that the interrogator has read complete data for one of the transponders including determining that the CRC is valid and suppressing the carrier;

upon determining an invalid data transmission, modifying the carrier signal to inform all active transponders in the field that there was an incomplete read; and

transmitting the complete data for each transponder from the interrogator to a computer system for processing.

27

19 31. The method recited in claim 18, wherein the step of modifying the carrier signal in a predetermined manner comprises sending out the carrier signal continuously.

20 32. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the step of modifying the carrier signal in a predetermined manner comprises suppressing the carrier signal for a predetermined number of clock cycles.

21 33. The method as recited in claim 20, wherein the step of modifying the carrier signal is performed prior to the transponder sending its complete data transmission.

22 34. The method as recited in claim 20 wherein the step of modifying the carrier signal is performed substantially simultaneously upon the determination that invalid data transmission has been received.

23 35. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the step of determining whether the interrogator has received an invalid data transmission comprises detecting the interrogator's inability to compute a proper synchronization word, a proper CRC, or a proper word length.--